

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /070 W
-----040941Z 054373 /10

R 040915Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3826
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1659

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, IN
SUBJECT: PODGORNYY VISIT TO INDIA

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 1549 (NOTAL), (B) MOSCOW 718 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE NO GOOD EXPLANATION FOR THE TIMING OF POD-
GORNYY'S VISIT TO INDIA, AND WE AGREE THAT IT SEEMS CURIOUS
IN VIEW OF THE ELECTION TWO WEEKS LATER (REFTEL A).

2. ONE POSSIBILITY IS THAT THE DATE WAS ALREADY SET
BEFORE PRIME MINISTER GANDHI CALLED THE ELECTION. AS
WE REPORTED IN REF B (PARA 2), AN INDIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL
HERE GAVE "FEBRUARY" AS THE PROBABLE DATE FOR THE
VISIT IN MID-JANUARY. WE HAD NO INDICATION HERE THAT
THE TRIP WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR A LATER DATE. THE
INDIAN OFFICIAL ALSO SAID THAT THE VISIT WAS AT INDIA'S
INVITATION.

3. THIS STILL DOES NOT EXPLAIN WHY IT COULD NOT
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HAVE BEEN POSTPONED, OR INDEED WHY A VISIT AT THAT
LEVEL WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY AT ALL, IN VIEW OF
MRS. GANDHI'S TRIP HERE LAST JUNE. WE ARE NOT
AWARE OF PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN THE RELATIONSHIP
WHICH WOULD REQUIRE SUCH URGENT OR HIGH-LEVEL
ATTENTION. THE PAKISTANIS HERE WONDER WHETHER IT
MIGHT BE RELATED TO WESTERN PRESS STORIES (INCLUDING

SPECIFICALLY AMBASSADOR SAXBE'S RECENT INTERVIEW IN U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT) CLAIMING THAT INDIA WAS MOVING AWAY FROM THE USSR. THE PAKISTANIS ALSO SPECULATE THAT IT MIGHT SOMEHOW BE RELATED TO GIEREK'S RECENT VISIT TO INDIA. A FURTHER LINE OF QUESTIONING CENTERS ON PRESUMED SOVIET CONCERN OVER CONGRESS-CPI RELATIONS. WE FIND ALL OF THESE POSSIBILITIES AS REASONS FOR A HEAD OF STATE VISIT REMOTE, BUT WE CANNOT JUDGE THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL ANGLE IN INDIA.

4. WE WILL BE SEEING SOME INDIANS AND PERHAPS SOVIETS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT REASONS THEY GIVE FOR A VISIT AT THIS TIME. SEVERAL WESTERN COLLEAGUES WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED HAVE NO INFORMATION TO ADD.
TOON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW01659
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770040-0571
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770272/aaaacui.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cdcc97cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NEW DELHI 1549, 77 MOSCOW 718
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3407406
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PODGORNYY VISIT TO INDIA
TAGS: PFOR, UR, IN, (PODGORNYY, NIKOLAY VIKTOROVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cdcc97cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009